



DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
A Public Agency

Tuesday, April 26, 2005
8:30 AM

Santa Barbara MTD Auditorium
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

John Britton, Chair, Olivia Rodriguez, Vice Chair, David Davis, Director, Logan Green, Director

DIRECTOR NOT PRESENT:

Brian Fahnestock, Secretary

MTD EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller, David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations, Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, Gabriel Garcia, HR & Risk Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Ledbetter, Gregg Hart, Public Information and Government Affairs Coordinator for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Adam Garcia, Goleta Blueprint staff

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Britton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Britton noted that all members were present, with the exception of Director Fahnestock, who would not be present at today's meeting.

3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA

The General Manager reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters, on the MTD website and mailed to the media of general circulation.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Director Rodriguez moved to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for the Board meeting of March 29, 2005, but directed that additional information be added to item #9 of the minutes. Director Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Davis moved to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for the Board workshop of April 15, 2005, with a name correction within item #6 and the addition of the time that Director Davis adjourned from the workshop (12:45 PM). Vice Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. CASH REPORT

Director Davis moved to approve the cash report from March 22, 2005, through April 18, 2005, and requested that staff provide the Board with a break down of legal counsel fees incurred by type (WC, general, special and land use related) for a period of 6-12 months. Director Davis also asked if it was possible to change the current coding within the cash report. Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller stated that due to the age of the accounting software used, it could not be done easily. Chair Britton requested that the Finance Committee receive a copy of recent purchases made with the MTD credit card. Director Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THIS CONCLUDED THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment from the public.

7. GOLETA BLUEPRINT SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

John Ledbetter made an informational presentation on the Goleta Blueprint Project to the Board. This presentation outlined their vision and concerns regarding community development, energy conservation, green building techniques, alternative transportation and public policy. Director Davis asked if the City of Goleta or their planning department staff has attended any of their meetings. Mr. Ledbetter replied that Margaret Connell, City of Goleta Councilmember had attended and she had reported back to the Council. Mr. Ledbetter stated that he hopes to have all the stakeholders involved with this vision. Director Davis asked how this project fits into Goleta's General Plan Process and if they have time to consider this into their final mapping process. Mr. Ledbetter stated that he believes that they have not finalized their Plan yet and continue to conduct their workshops. Mr. Ledbetter added that the Sustainability Project will hold another workshop on May 21, 2005 and would like to have the MTD Board endorse the Project. Director Davis made a motion to thank Mr. Ledbetter for his presentation and encouraged him to work with the City of Goleta and requested that staff invite the City of Goleta to present their plan before the Board. Director Rodriguez seconded the motion.

8. 101 IN MOTION UPDATES

Gregg Hart, Public Information and Government Affairs Coordinator for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) presented the Board with 101 in Motion updates, which were the final four packages selected by the Steering Committee. Mr. Hart reported that these four packages are the alternative solutions that will continue as viable options to provide long-term congestion relieve on the 101 corridor between Ventura County line and Winchester Canyon. Mr. Hart also provided the Board with a fact sheet that contained a description of each package. Commuter Rail, HOV/HOT lanes, HOV South/Aux North and General Purpose lanes are package options. Also included in each package, under Alternative Modes, is double express bus service, increasing connecting local bus service and bus priority on selected arterials. Mr. Hart added that final evaluations would be done before any final recommendations would be made.

Director Davis asked that if Measure D were reauthorized, would the proposed commuter rail package be funded with a majority of the transportation designated funds, which would affect existing transit. Mr. Hart stated that Measure D allocation percentages are not fixed, but noted

that another item to consider would be how funds would be used. The Board thanked Mr. Hart for the presentation and updates.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE FEDERAL 5307 OPERATING ASSISTANCE APPORTIONMENT

Mr. Estrada updated the Board on the status of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) changes regarding MTD's annual 5307 apportionment. Mr. Estrada noted that this apportionment (2.8 million dollars) makes up approximately 18% of MTD's operating revenue. He then reported that Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG) is required to set up a process authorized by FTA. The current formula uses primarily population to distribute the funds between Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria. This requirement for corrective action resulted from SBCAG's last tri-annual review. SBCAG was then required to implement a new process for distributing these funds by June 2005, or the funds would be in jeopardy. Mr. Estrada stated that SBCAG staff and the three agencies involved worked together to come up with a competitive process/program of projects that would meet the federal guidelines. The agreement proposed is that each urbanized area will continue to get the money designated to that area, however only FTA eligible grantees will be able to claim these funds. Mr. Estrada noted that some rules and guidelines would also need to be implemented, reviewed and approved by the Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC). Mr. Estrada closed by saying that MTD staff is very satisfied with this proposed solution and will present a request for approval at an upcoming Board meeting.

10. MTD POLICY RE: DOGS ON BUSES

The Board reviewed a request made during public comment at the Board meeting of February 15, 2005, to allow (non-service) dogs on MTD buses. The General Manager reported that after this request was made, MTD conducted a passenger survey regarding change to the current dogs on buses policy. David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations reviewed the results of the input gathered with the Board, which reflected an overwhelming response to maintain the current MTD dog policy. The General Manager requested the Board's approval to keep the current MTD dog policy. Director Rodriguez thanked MTD staff for their efforts in conducting this survey and moved to approve the General Manager's request to continue to follow the current MTD dog policy. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager reported that the development department is currently preparing information for fall service enhancement recommendations. Mr. Damiano noted that the development department has conducted a lot of research and considers on time performance and overloads its top priorities. Mr. Damiano added MTD is scheduled to hold six public input meetings in May, to discuss the proposed service changes and adjustments to the lines 9, 16, 17, 12x and 24x. Flyers advertising these meetings have been placed at all the bus stops that may be affected.

The Board welcomed the new Human Resources and Risk Manager, Gabriel Garcia who stated that he has had a busy first week and is currently working on a policy for flex-time. The General Manager also noted that MTD's WC files were recently moved to Workers' Compensation Administrators, LLC (WCA), MTD's new TPA for WC.

The General Manager reported that due to roadblocks, the Valley Express buses had recently used San Marcos Pass as an alternate route. Mr. Damiano gave an update on the Valley Express Service and stated that ridership continues to rise. Outreach to potential riders and their employers continue.

The General Manager announced that MTD staff had met with City staff to discuss possible changes to the MyRide program and she added that any formal recommendations would be presented to the Board at a later date. Mr. Damiano also informed the Board of ideas that the marketing department is working on for the Downtown Waterfront Shuttle. The Board also offered their suggestions.

The General Manager reported that she and David would be attending an upcoming IV-Pac meeting to discuss enhancements to some of the bus shelters within Isla Vista. Mr. Damiano reported that he is working closely with County staff on this project.

The General Manager shared the "Green Car Show Award" that MTD received from the Community Environmental Council (CEC) this past "Earth Day" weekend. MTD was recognized for "traveling 219,000 miles with battery electric, zero-emission buses from April 2004 to April 2005, total miles traveled on all shuttles 2,153,572 since 1990". The General Manager added that this had been a great event!

The General Manager noted that a Hybrid bus had recently been brought to MTD for display and she noted that staff would try and arrange for another visit on a day that the Board would be present.

Mr. Estrada, Mr. Damiano and Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance reported on a Transit Fundamentals workshop that was hosted by Caltrans that they recently attended. Mr. Maas also updated the Board on the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), Commuter Rail Conference that he attended.

The General Manager reported that CPR & first aid training was recently held at MTD and had been offered to and attended by supervisors, foremen, managers and staff. This training was lead by MTD driver, Chris Cota who is certified trainer for Red Cross. The General Manager added that MTD staff might consider presenting the Board with the possibility of purchasing a defibrillator to keep at the Transit Center.

The General Manager noted that Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager and Imelda Martin, Receptionist will be attending the upcoming County of Santa Barbara's Brown Act training.

Calle Real soil remediation continues with the staff at MTD and the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) finishing up the public notices that will go out to the neighboring areas and finalizing the details of the contract with Onyx Environmental Services. Mr. Estrada stated that he expects this project to be completed by June 2005.

The General Manager announced that SBCAG had invited MTD to submit CMAQ grant project proposals. The General Manager reminded the Board that there is currently no CMAQ grant money, but these projects would be "on the shelf", in the event that those funds were to become available. MTD submitted an AVL project and an individualized marketing project.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director Davis reported that he had recently been on a panel at the Tri-Counties Association of Realtors. Director Davis stated that there were approximately 300 attendees and topics related to housing within the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura were discussed. Director Davis noted that he also took the time to bring up the Hollister Calle Real corridor and how important transit and housing is to that area, including the MTD Calle Real

project. Director Davis also reported on a survey that was recently conducted by Economic Community Project related to the South Coast. Included in this survey were questions about transit and the results would be available on June 3rd at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

Director Green reported that he had recently been on a panel at a meeting of the Santa Barbara Human Resources Association. Director Green stated that the topics discussed were transportation, workforce and housing, in which he offered information about the MyRide program and Valley Express Service. Director Green then commented on the recent implementation of the UCSB TAP program and stated that it is off to a good start.

Director Rodriguez reported that Human Resources Committee had met with the General Manager to discuss personnel issues and what they would like to see from the department.

Director Rodriguez also reported that the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce would be holding a Cinco de Mayo Business Mixer on May 5, 2005, at the Wells Fargo Bank on Anacapa Street. Director Rodriguez added that it would start at 5:30 PM and that everyone is invited.

Director Rodriguez also requested that the May 24, 2005, Board meeting be scheduled to a start at 10:00 AM, due to a Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) event that she and other members of the MTD Board plan to attend. The Board agreed to 10:00 AM start time for the May 24, 2005 meeting.

13. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION-CALLE REAL (CANCELLED)

The Board did not meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, conference with real property negotiators regarding the MTD Calle Real Property, APN's Book 59, Page 14, Parcels 4, 5 & 6, and Book 67, Page 23, Parcel 6, concerning price and terms of payment; agency negotiators Doug Large and Bob Andrews; other negotiation parties: Housing Authority of County of Santa Barbara, Martin Farrell Homes, and Investec Capital, Inc.

14. ADJOURNMENT